

The Contest JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
34456 COLEVILLE PLACE
FREMONT CA 94546

MAY 1982

NUMBER 121

PRESIDENT: W6SZN

VP/CC: KN6M

SCTY/TREAS: K6ZM

DIRECTORS: AA6G, N6KB, N6XI, W6XX JUG POST P: K6HNZ

JUG EDITOR: K6RU

COMMITTEES: PROGRAM-WB6FCR MEMBERSHIP-OPEN FINANCE-N6AUV AWARDS-KA6ING

N6RO PICNIC--JUNE 5

COMING EVENTS

MAY MEETING PROGRAM

"SUMMERTIME CONTESTS - STRATEGY AND PROPAGATION" - PAST BIG WINNERS K6HNZ, N6KT, AND N6RO WILL TELL HOW IT'S DONE IN WPX, ALL ASIAN, IARU RADIOSPORT AND EVEN FIELD DAY.

MAY 24: NCCC MEETING 7:30 PM, CWA
HALL, HAYWARD

JUNE 19-20: ALL ASIAN CONTEST - PHONE

MAY 29-30: CQWW WPX CONTEST - CW

JUNE 26-27: FILED DAY

JUNE 5: N6RO PICNIC (DETAILS IN JUG)

JUNE 28: NCCC MEETING

OUR NEW PREZ SAYS

HAVING PREVAILED IN THE ONLY SORT OF ELECTION I WILL EVER WIN (UNCONTESTED), I LOOK FORWARD TO ACTING AS NCCC PRESIDENT FOR THE COMING YEAR. THANKS TO THOSE WHO VOTED FOR ME AND DUPES TO THOSE WHO ABSTAINED. THE CLUB OWES A BIG THANKS TO N6KB, N6KT, N6QW, N6AUV, K6HNZ, WA6VEF, K6OMB AND K6RU FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORT IN GUIDING THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR. THE TIME DEMANDS OF SERVING AS AN OFFICER HAVE ALREADY BECOME ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ME IN JUST THE FEW DAYS SINCE THE ELECTION. DON'T MISS THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING (ONLY KIDDING....SO FAR).

AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, THE RECENT MEETING OF THE BoD FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON WAYS OF INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST IN THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES. SOME OF THE DECISIONS MADE ARE REFLECTED IN THIS MONTH'S JUG (REPORTS OF THE BoD MEETINGS, LISTING OF CONTEST ACHIEVEMENTS). REPORTS OF CLUB MEETINGS, BEGINNING WITH THIS MONTH'S GET-TOGETHER, WILL NOW APPEAR EACH MONTH. SHORT TECHNICAL ARTICLES ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO CONTESTERS WILL SOON BECOME A REGULAR JUG FEATURE. ARTICLES BY MEMBERS ON ANTENNA IDEAS, OPERATING TIPS, STATION LAYOUT FOR CONTESTING, AND SIMILAR SUBJECTS ARE EARNESTLY SOLICITED. TAKE A FEW MINUTES, WRITE SOMETHING, AND SEND IT TO K6RU.

AS THE FEW WHO CHECK IN KNOW, PARTICIPATION IN THE WEDNESDAY EVENING 2 METER NETS LATELY HAS BEEN DISMAL. MANY ATTRIBUTE THE LACK OF CHECK-INS TO THE FACT THAT RECENT NETS HAVE CONSISTED LARGELY OF "NOT MUCH NEW HERE, OVER TO THE NEXT GUY WHOSE CALL I FORGOT TO WRITE DOWN". IN SHORT, THE NETS ARE BORING. THE WEDNESDAY EVENING NETS, HOWEVER, ARE IMPORTANT. THEY SERVE AS A QUICK AND

(CON'T)

OUR NEW PREZ SAYS

(CON'T)

INEXPENSIVE WAY OF GETTING INFORMATION TO AND FROM MEMBERS. THEY PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING CONTESTS, POST-MORTEM OF RECENTLY-CONCLUDED CONTESTS, AND OTHER MATTERS OF CURRENT INTEREST TO CONTESTERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE NETS PROVIDE A SCHEDULED OPPORTUNITY FOR CLUB MEMBERS TO GET TOGETHER MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT REGULARLY ATTEND MEETINGS, THE NETS AND THE JUG ARE THE CLUB.

RECOGNIZING THAT MORE STRUCTURE IS ALMOST ALWAYS WORSE THAN LESS, THE BoD NONETHELESS CONCLUDED THAT A BIT MORE STRUCTURE TO THE NETS MIGHT MAKE THEM MORE INTERESTING. ACCORDINGLY, A FORMAT FOR THE NETS IS BEING HAMMERED OUT TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THAT WILL INCLUDE REGULAR REPORTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND VP/CC, REGULAR SOLICITATION OF CLAIMED SCORES FOR INCLUSION IN THE JUG, AND POSSIBLY WESTLINK AND ARRL BULLETINS. BOB VALLIO, W6RGG/N6KB, APPARENTLY HAVING DECIDED THAT IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN AMATEUR RADIO, HAS GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEERED TO ACT AS NET CONTROL EACH WEEK. PLEASE GIVE YOUR IDEAS FOR MAKING THE NETS MORE INTERESTING AND USEFUL TO BOB OR ME.....AND THEN MAKE IT A POINT TO CHECK IN REGULARLY.

REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE ARE THE DETAILS OF THE N6RO PICNIC. THIS EVENT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE BIGGEST "FUN" THING THE CLUB DOES EACH YEAR AND IS SOMETHING NOT TO BE MISSED. BILL JACKSON, W6OWQ, IS HANDLING THE FOOD/DRINK COORDINATION THIS YEAR. LET BILL KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO BRING. MAY 22 WILL BE A "LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS" DAY AT RADIO OAKLEY TO READY KEN'S QTH FOR THE ONSLAUGHT OF HUNDREDS. IF YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE THERE TO LEND A HAND, BE THERE!

THOSE OF YOU WHO READ QST CAREFULLY SAW IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE TWO ITEMS THAT BEAR DIRECTLY ON CONTESTING. THE FIRST IS THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE 20 METER PHONE BAND. THE SECOND, BURIED IN THE FINE PRINT OF THE ARRL BoD MEETING MINUTES, IS A PROPOSAL FOR A "CONTEST CODE OF ETHICS". I WILL BE SOLICITING THE VIEWS OF THE CLUB ON BOTH ITEMS AT THE MAY MEETING AND WILL THEREAFTER SEND LETTERS TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSONS REFLECTING THOSE VIEWS. GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO BOTH PROPOSALS AND SPEAK UP AT THE MEETING. WE WILL EITHER LIKE WHAT HAPPENS OR WE WON'T, BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET OUR VIEWS BE KNOWN.

THE SUMMER CONTEST SEASON OPENS WITH CQ WPX CW LATER THIS MONTH. ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALIENATE WIVES, CHILDREN, NEIGHBORS, AND FRIENDS INCLUDE ALL ASIAN PHONE AND FIELD DAY IN JUNE, IARU RADIOSPORT IN JULY AND ALL ASIAN CW IN AUGUST. PROPAGATION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS MAKES THESE CONTESTS A CHALLENGE DIFFERENT FROM THE FALL STRUGGLES. THREE CONTEST VETERANS WHO SEEM TO WIN SOMETHING EVERY SUMMER -- N6RO, K6HNZ AND N6KT -- HAVE OFFERED TO LET THE REST OF US IN ON HOW THEY DO IT AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING. DON'T MISS IT. WE'LL BE RAFFLING OFF COPIES OF THE NEW ARRL ANTENNA BOOK, THE ARRL ANTENNA ANTHOLOGY (A COLLECTION OF THE BEST ANTENNA ARTICLES FROM QST), THE 80 METER HANDBOOK (FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTO QRN), AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

73,

KIP W6SZN

NCCC PICNIC AND RADIO OAKLEY OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 1:00 PM TIL FADEOUT

FOOD AND DRINK

BEER - COURTESY NCCC

FOOD - COUPLES BRING
POTLUCK DISHES SUCH
AS CASSEROLE, BEANS,
POTATO SALAD, SPAGHETTI
AND MEAT BALLS OR OTHER
HOT DISHES.

SINGLES BRING SNACKS
SUCH AS CHIPS AND DIP,
CHEESE, CRACKERS, DES-
SERT, SOFT DRINKS, HOT
DOGS, ETC.

IF YOU WANT WINE THEN
BRING IT

BAY AREA FOOD
COORDINATOR

YOU BAY AREA FOLKS
CALL:

BILL JACKSON,
W6OWQ.
415)593-4229

HE WILL SORT OUT THE
FOOD REQUIREMENTS FOR
YOU.

NCDXC MEMBERS
INVITED TOO

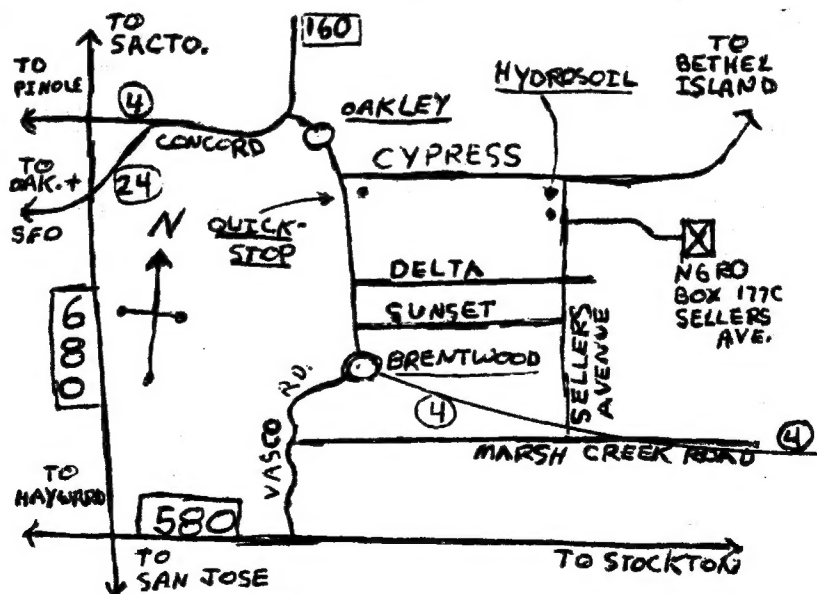
ATHLETIC EQUIP.
COORDINATOR

BRUCE, N6TU
408)249-7447

Son of Return of Dear Ol' Aunt Tenna



MAP



SAVE GAS -- CARPOOL TO OAKLEY

THE FESTIVITIES WILL BE VIDEO TAPED

COME AND BE A TELEVISION STAR!!

ATTRACTIONS

WATERSKIING
(CONTRIBUTE TO THE
FUEL FUND)

HORSESHOES

BADMINTON
(BRING NET AND
EQUIPMENT)

SOFTBALL
(IN SOFT SAND!)

TRACTOR RIDES
FOR THE KIDS.
N6RO DRIVER.

ANTENNA SPECULAT-
ING
WHICH KLM IS
WHICH?

WATCH THE TRAINS

MUSIC
BRING YOUR AXE.

TALK-IN

146.52 SIMPLEX

147.165 REPEATER

THE 23rd ALL ASIAN DX CONTEST

Supported by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan.

The purpose of this contest is to enhance the activity of radio amateurs in Asia and to establish as many contacts as possible during the contest periods between Asian and Non-Asian Stations.

1. CONTEST PERIOD:

- (1) Phone: 48 hours from 0000 UTC June 19, 1982 to 2400 UTC June 20, 1982
- (2) CW : 48 hours from 0000 UTC August 28, 1982 to 2400 UTC August 29, 1982

2. BANDS:

Amateurs bands under 30MHz

3. ENTRY CLASSIFICATIONS:

- (1) Single operator, 1.9 MHz band (CW only)
- (2) Single operator, 3.5 MHz band
- (3) Single operator, 7 MHz band
- (4) Single operator, 14 MHz band
- (5) Single operator, 21 MHz band
- (6) Single operator, 28 MHz band
- (7) Single operator, Multi band
- (8) Multi operator, Multi band

4. POWER, TYPE OF EMISSION and FREQUENCIES:

Within the limits of own station license.

5. CONTEST CALL:

- (1) For Asian stations:
 - (a) Phone....."CQ contest"
 - (b) CW "CQ test"
- (2) For non-Asian stations:
 - (a) Phone....."CQ Asia"
 - (b) CW "CQ AA"

6. EXCHANGE:

- (1) For OM stations: RS(IT) report plus two figures denoting operator's age.
- (2) For YL stations: RS(IT) report plus two figures "00 (zero zero)"

7. RESTRICTIONS ON THE CONTEST:

- (1) No contact on cross band.
- (2) For participants of single operator's entry: Transmitting two signals or more at the same time including cases of different bands is not permitted.
- (3) For participants of multi operator's entry: Transmitting two signals or more at the same time within the same band, except in case of different bands, is not permitted.

8. POINT AND MULTIPLIER.

- (1) For Asian stations.
 - (a) Point.....Perfect contact with non-Asian stations will be scored as follows.

1.9 MHz band.....	3 points
3.5/3.8MHz bands	2 "
Other bands	1 "
 - (b) Multiplier.....The number of different countries in the world worked on each band. According to the DXCC countries list.
- (2) For non-Asian stations.
 - (a) Point.....Perfect contact with Asian stations (excluding U.S auxiliary military radio stations in the Far East, Japan:KA stations) will be counted as follows:

1.9 MHz band.....	3 points
3.5/3.8 MHz bands	2 "
Other bands	1 "
 - (b) Multiplier.....The number of different Asian Prefixes worked on each band. According to the WPX rules.
- (3) JD1 stations.
 - (a) JD1 stations on Ogasawara (Bonin and Volcano) Islands belong to Asia.
 - (b) JD1 stations on Minamitori Shima (Marcus) Island belong to Oceania.
- (4) Contacts among Asian stations and among non-Asian stations will neither count as a point nor multiplier.

9. SCORING:

- (The sum of the contact points on each band) ×
 (The sum of the multipliers on each band)

10. INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUMMARY AND LOG SHEET:

- (1) Summary sheet: Please use the summary sheet form shown on the other side of this sheet.
- (2) Log sheet.
 - (a) Please use the log sheet form shown on the other side of this sheet, and use a separate sheet for each band.
 - (b) Please keep all times in GMT.
 - (c) Please fill in the blanks of "multiplier" by countries or prefixes, only the first time on each band.

11. AWARDS:

- (1) For both phone and cw, certificates will be awarded to those having the highest score in each entry in proportion to the number of participants from each country and also those from each call area in the United States.
 - (a) The number of participants under 10..... Award only to the highest scorer.
 - (b) From 11 to 20..... Award up to the runner-up
 - (c) From 21 to 30..... Award up to the top third
 - (d) From 31 or more Award up to the top fifth
- (2) The highest scorer in each Continent of the single operator multi band entry will receive a medal and certificate from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan.
- (3) The highest scorer of the multi operator multi band entry in each Continent will receive a medal.

12. REPORTING.

- (1) Submit a summary sheet and logs of only one classification.
- (2) Both log and summary sheet must arrive in J.A.R.L., P.O.Box 377, Tokyo central, Japan on or before the following dates.
 - (a) PhoneSeptember 30, 1982
 - (b) CWNovember 30, 1982

13. DISQUALIFICATION:

- (1) Violation of the contest rules.
- (a) False statement in the report.
- (3) Taking points from duplicate contact on the same band in excess of 2% by the total.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT:

- (1) PhoneAbout February 1983
- (2) CWAbout April 1983

15. COUNTRIES LIST OF ASIA:

A4,	UM8/UK8M.N.,
A5,	VS6,
A6,	VS9M/8Q,
A7,	VU,
A9,	VU(Andaman & Nicobar
AP,	Is.)
BV,	VU(Laccadive I.),
BY,	XU,
CR9,	XV, 3W
EP,	XW,
HL/HM,	XZ,
HS,	YA,
HZ/ZZ,	YI,
JA-JR,	YK,
JD1 (Ogasawara Is.),	ZC4/5B4,
JT,	1S(Spratty I.),
JY,	4S,
OD,	4W,
S2,	4X/4Z,
TA,	7O(S. Yemen),
UA/UK/UV/UW9-φ,	7O(Kamran Is.),
UD6/UK6C.D.K.,	8Z4,
UF6/UK6F.O.Q.V.,	9K,
UG6/UK6G,	9M2(West Malaysia),
UH8/UK8H,	9N,
UI8/UK8A-G.I.L.O.T-Z.,	9V(Singapore),
UJ8/UK8J.R.,	IAbuAil
UL7/UK7,	

You may have contest results by enclosing one IRC and SAE with your log

NOTES FROM OUR NEW VP/CC

KB'ERS - THANKS TO ALL FOR GIVING ME A TURN AT SHOTGUNNING THE NCCC THIS YEAR. I'M A-GONNA DO MY DARNDDEST TO LIVE UP TO THE TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THOSE WHO PRECEDED ME. LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION FOR A SUPER CONTEST YEAR IN 1981.

1982 IS ALREADY SHAPING UP TO BE ANOTHER HOMERUN. I ENCOURAGE US ALL, ESPECIALLY THE NEWER MEMBERS, TO JUMP IN AND PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY CONTESTS AS POSSIBLE FOR EXPERIENCE AND RATE BUILDING. DON'T FORGET THE CQWW WPX AT THE END OF THIS MONTH (IT'S CW, FOLKS) AND START YOUR FINGER EXERCISES EARLY. THAT'S IT FOR NOW, BUT WATCH OUT FOR SECRET INSERTS!

73 ES KB, MORI KN6M

MINUTES OF MAY 6, 1982 NCCC BoD MEETING

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE HOME OF K6RU. THOSE PRESENT WERE W6SZN, KN6M N6KB, N6KT, K6RU, W6XX, AA6G, K6HNZ, N6AUV AND K6ZM. THE MEETING OPENED AT 7:55 PM AND OUR NEW VP/CC, KN6M, PRESENTED PLANS FOR THE 1982 CONTESTS. HE PREDICTED THAT NCCC COULD BE NUMBER ONE IN THE 1982 CQWW DX CONTEST. AN INQUIRY SHEET WILL BE MAILED TO EACH MEMBER AS A STARTER.

W6SZN BEGAN HIS YEAR A PRESIDENT OF NCCC BY ANNOUNCING THAT N6AUV WOULD AGAIN SERVE AS FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND THAT OTHER APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING MADE (SEE JUG MASTHEAD-ED.). HE STATED THAT W6OWQ WILL BE FOOD COORDINATOR FOR THE N6RO PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 5 AND N6TU THE ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT MANAGER. THE FOOTHILL ROUND TABLE WILL SUPPLY VIDEO TAPE EQUIPMENT. N6KB WILL BE NET CONTROL FOR THE REACTIVATED 8:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT QNI MEETINGS ON WR6ADM.

K6RU REQUESTED MORE INPUT FOR THE JUG AND SUGGESTED MATERIAL SUCH AS CONTEST SCORES; DATES OF FUTURE BoD AND CLUB MEETINGS; MINUTES OF BOTH MEETINGS TO BE PUBLISHED. IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED, AND PASSED THAT MINUTES OF CLUB AND BoD MEETINGS BE PUBLISHED EACH MONTH TO PROVIDE MORE CLUB INFORMATION TO THE MEMBERS. CAM ALSO STATED THAT AT THE PRESENT 20¢ POSTAGE RATE, FIVE SHEETS (10 PAGES) CAN BE MAILED IF ENOUGH SUITABLE MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE TO FILL THEM.

N6QW REPORTED ON THE FINANCES OF NCCC AND SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT BUDGET SUPPLY MORE MONEY FOR THE JUG WHICH IS COSTING APPROXIMATELY \$100 PER MONTH. OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF INCOME WERE DISCUSSED BY N6AUV AS WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR ANNUAL INCOME BY AT LEAST \$600. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WE WILL SPEND \$3,500 THIS COMING YEAR. OF THE \$480 THAT WAS SPENT ON CQWW SPONSORED AWARDS, ONLY \$360 HAS BEEN PAID WITH FOUR SPONSORS STILL NOT DONATING THEIR SHARES. ANOTHER SUGGESTION FOR ADDITIONAL INCOME WAS TO ADVERTISE MEMBERS BUSINESS SPECIALTIES IN ONE OR TWO LINES IN THE JUG FOR \$10.00 (OR B/O-ED.). T-SHIRTS ALSO WERE MENTIONED.

THE MAY 3 TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON THE NAVASSA ISLAND DXPEDITION WAS NOTED AS A VERY WELL WRITTEN HAM RADIO STORY BY TIME SENIOR WRITER W2UB TELLING WHY HAMS DO SUCH THINGS.

N6KT SAID THAT HE IS WORKING ON A "PEOPLE ACTIVATION PROGRAM" FOR IMPROVING CONTESTING SKILLS.

N6KB CAUTIONED THE NEW BoD TO WATCH ITS BUDGET CLOSELY BECAUSE LAST YEAR NCCC WAS OVER BUDGET ABOUT \$300 DUE TO UNEXPECTED EXPENSES.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:30 PM IN TIME FOR SOME OF K6RU'S FAMOUS "HOT FOOD" AND BEER.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
PHIL FRAZIER, K6ZM SC1Y/TREAS.

American Scene

In the Caribbean: Hams and Goats

The only possible landing at the island is not a landing in the usual sense of the word but a place where a boat can be held long enough for men to jump on a wire rope ladder that dangles about 40 ft. from a cantilever catwalk. There is constant danger of the boat being broached by the incoming swell, being smashed against the cliff, being caught and crushed under the cliff or being engulfed by the receding backwash.

—U.S. Coast Guard Warning

That hint of danger had not dissuaded the nine Americans, most of them normally sedentary landlubbers, from boarding the sturdy 48-ft. fishing trawler *Gabriella* in Kingston, Jamaica, and heading into the windswept Caribbean on a stomach-churning 124-mile, 15-hour voyage to U.S.-owned Navassa Island, 30 miles west of Haiti. Unaccountably cheerful through the stormy night, the five-man Jamaican crew and the boat's Kingston owner, Gilbert Thompson ("I couldn't trust the responsibility of this trip to just the crew"), kept the craft on course toward its tiny target: a flat-topped limestone rock merely one mile wide and two miles long, with sheer cliffs plunging to the sea. And as the deck of the *Gabriella* heaved in the 10-ft. waves, so too did many of the Americans.

Why were they spending precious vacation time to live for a week on a hot, deserted pile of boulders and brush? All were amateur radio operators, and each was pursuing the arcane joys of one of that burgeoning hobby's most popular specialties. It is called DXing, meaning long-distance communications. The obsessive goal of diehard DXers is to make at least one contact with each of the 318 "countries" recognized by hams around the world. Under criteria established by the American Radio Relay League, the largest ham organization, Navassa qualifies as one such country because it is more than 225 miles from its governing mainland. But no ham can talk to Navassa unless other amateurs go there to put it on the air. That was the aim of this "DXpedition."

Approaching the island after dawn, the intrepid hams quickly discovered that the Coast Guard's warning had been apt. The wire ladder was there, all right, but the backwash was violent. Transporting gear, including 50 boxes of electronic equipment, three rotatable-beam antennas, two gasoline-powered generators weighing about 150 lbs. each, plus assorted 20-ft.-long steel pipes, bamboo poles, 250-lb. gasoline drums, kegs of drinking water and a week's food supply, looked impossible. Just getting to the

swaying ladder seemed daunting enough.

But the expedition's gruff leader was unfazed. John Ackley (call sign: KP2A) had made a fortune by selling his New Jersey computer firm in 1976, then founded the tax-exempt International DX Foundation to promote worldwide good will by sponsoring such DXpeditions. His foundation had supplied all of the radio gear, while the trip's cost (more than \$10,000) was split among the nine operators. Ackley set off with two crewmen in a 12-ft. dinghy, powered by a 25-h.p. outboard motor. One crewman skillfully maneuvered the tiny craft through the heavy seas to put Ackley at the ladder on the crest of a wave. He scrambled up the 16 suspended steps—and the ladder held.

For the next eight hours, the precarious unloading of the *Gabriella* by slow trips in the pitching dinghy continued, with one wholly unexpected assist. As the hams began setting up the first of four operating sites on a plateau some 100 ft. above the water (but 200 ft. beneath the island's flat top), they heard a warning horn blast from the *Gabriella*, then a shout on the short-range radio: "Two men are climbing the ladder."

Two frail-looking wooden fishing boats had rounded a rocky point, and their seven occupants were coming ashore. Were they Haitians determined to assert their nation's unsupported 124-year-old claim to the island? Perhaps an advance party of pirates known to seize foreign small craft in the area? No. They pointed to the gear, then to the block and tackle hoisting it and finally to themselves. Stu Greene (WA2MOE), a lawyer from Peekskill, N.Y., managed to bargain in fractured French. The visitors were from Haiti and would help unload the boat for \$20. The tenderfoot hams were amazed at how their helpers could toss a 75-lb. equipment box on one shoulder and stride barefoot over the sharp rocks to help set up the stations.

By nightfall the hams were on the air, and the strange ritual of DXing began. "This is KP2A-portable KP1," one of the operators said quietly into a microphone. That call signaled the DXpedition's presence on Navassa. Almost immediately occurred what hams call a pile-up. The whole ham world, it seemed, was shouting at Navassa on the same frequency, each foreign operator yelling his call letters phonetically. Apart from the roar of the numerous U.S. hams, the voices of Japanese amateurs were particularly prevalent, mingling in a hummingbird cacophony strange to the Western ear.

Each contact lasted fewer than ten seconds. Each was then logged by the hams on Navassa; when they returned to

the mainland, they would send a QSL ("I acknowledge your transmission") card to each operator confirming the contact. The goal is to collect as many of these cards as possible. Some 200 enthusiasts have cards from all 318 "countries."

For six days, 24 hours a day, the rapid-fire transmissions continued. The island's plentiful goats, graceful V-winged birds and night-prowling rats must have been startled by the strange sounds breaking their normal silence: generators that putt-putted like suburban lawnmowers; American voices repeating over and over, "You are five-nine on Navassa"; the clean, clear whistle of skilled code operators giving similar signal reports to the multitude of distant stations. The men worked in shifts up to six hours long, hunched over logs, struggling to get each plaintive call down accurately.

There were moments of giddy camaraderie in the island's intense heat. When the Jamaican crew captured a goat, Ackley stuck a microphone in its face and elicited an obliging *baaaa*. A ham in England laughed back.

By week's end 33,552 hams from as far as Australia and from as unlikely a place as Tristan da Cunha, a South Atlantic island, had radioed Navassa. The repeated shouts of "Thanks for the new country" were satisfying. But each operator had a more personal reason for coming to that Godforsaken rock. "It's the only adventure left to me in this hobby," explained Bob Schenck (N200), a telephone-switching specialist from Tucker, N.J. Two years ago, Schenck and Ackley went on a DXpedition to Spratly Island, in the South China Sea, and got more adventure than they sought. Their boat was fired on by Vietnamese artillery. "It's an ego thing—a whole lot of people get to know your call," said Jim Dionne (K1MEM), a computer expert from Westwood, Mass. "My life was in a rut," added Terry Baxter (N6CW), an avionics technician from La Mesa, Calif., who has made contact with all but two of the countries. "I told my wife, this is something I've got to do."

The most savvy operator on Navassa was Bob Denniston, 63. A former president of national and international ham organizations, he owns a small hotel on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands and a home in Iowa, and has apt call letters, W0DX. A bearded gent in a pith helmet, Denniston organized two DXpeditions to Clipperton Island, a forbidding rock in the Pacific, 1,800 miles west of the Panama Canal, putting it on the air for the first time in 1954. He went twice in the 1960s to Malpelo Island, 310 miles west of Colombia, initiating the first ham opera-

American Scene

tions there. The mountainside radio sites on Malpelo were pitched at a 45° angle and one ham survived a fall into the sea only because his life jacket kept his unconscious body afloat. To Denniston, there is nothing like taking charge of a frequency and controlling all those frantic callers. "I love working a pile-up," he says.

Throughout the hams' stay on Navassa, the sea remained surprisingly calm. But when they broke camp and boarded the *Gabriella* once again, the winds howled anew and stomachs turned queasy. "I keep asking myself, why do I do this?" muttered Al Fischer (K8CW) of Mansfield, Ohio. But for the one novice DXer aboard, the trip proved fatal. The goat whose *baaa* was heard round the world was served up as mutton stew.

—By Ed Magnuson (W2LUB)

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THANKS TO KIP, W6SZN FOR OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM TIME TO REPRINT THIS ARTICLE.

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED: NEED SOME HELPING HANDS SATURDAY, MAY 22 TO SET UP FACILITIES FOR NCCC PICNIC. CONTACT KEN, N6RO.

7

WR6ADM - 147.84/24 WED.8 PM QNI

MAY 5: W6SZN, W6OWQ, KA6ING, WA6VEF, K6CSL, N6CVC, N6AUV, KN6K, WB6DSV, K6KLY.

MAY 12: W6SZN, K6XO, N6RZ, N6KT, KN6M, W6OWQ, N6JL, N6KB, K6ZM, KA6ING, WA6BOB, WA6VEF.

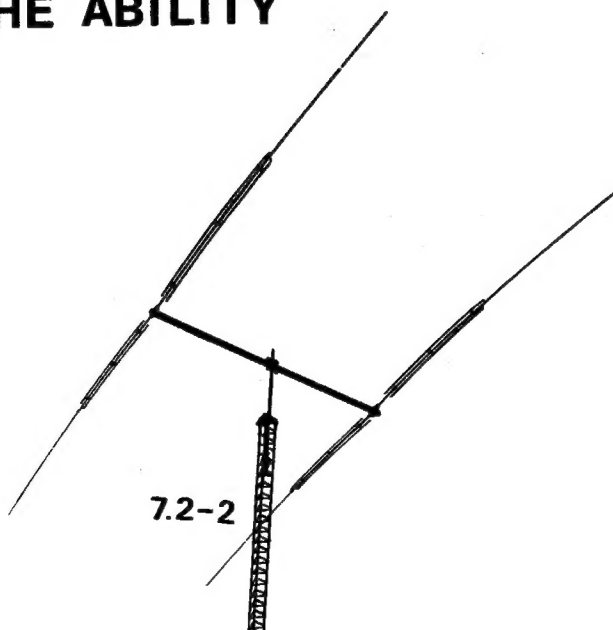
NEW CONTEST MACHINE

BOB, NG6T (EX-KD6NH) IS REALLY PUTTING A M/M CONTEST STATION TOGETHER. CURRENTLY HE HAS 4 OPERATING POSITIONS: TS830/ALPHA; 77SX TS820/R820/ALPHA 78 TS130/ALPHA 78; 1C730/2KL. ANTENNAS: 6 EL KLM'S 10-15-21 AT 90', 125' AND 110'. 4 EL KLM ON 40 AT 120' WIRES ON 80 AT 100'.

FUTURE PLANS INCLUDE ALL FT-1 XCVRS; 4 EL 80 ROTARY AT 120'; STACKED 6 EL ON 20; 5 EL 40 AT 160'; 4-6EL ON 10 COLINEAR/BROADSIDE. ALL STACKED BEAMS TO BE DEPHASED SO AS TO CONTROL RADIATION ANGLE. WOW!!!

BoD MEETING - JUNE 3
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SPECIFICATIONS

7.2-2

Frequency of operation: 7.0-7.3 MHz
(x 125 KHz)

Gain: 4.9 dBd

F/B: 12 dB

Feed Impedance: 50 ohms unbalanced w.
(3-60 MHz 4:1 4KW balun supplied)

Max element length: 46'

Boom length/Dia: 16'/3"

Weight: 45 lbs

Windload: 6 sq ft

For Mast: 2" O.D.

The 7.2-2, on a 16 foot boom, is ideal for hams seeking well-rounded coverage of the amateur bands, as well as good DX capabilities. The linear-loaded elements virtually eliminate interaction with 20 meter beams and permit stacking as close as 4 feet.

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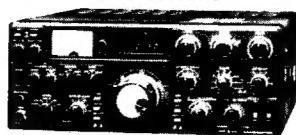
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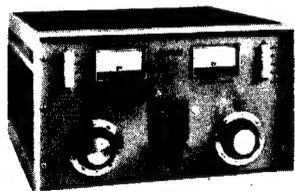


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All nine HF bands • All solid state • Broadband tuned • Digitally synthesized w/ 10Hz resolution • Two VFO's • General coverage receiver, 0.1MHz to 30MHz (no transmit, general coverage) • Simplex, duplex • RTT • 100W p.e.p. output on SSB, 100 W CW and RTTY, 40W AM • Digital readout • Passband tuning • Operating voltage, 13.8VDC @ 20A • Dozens of other desirable features.

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KLM 7.2-1 40M rotatable dipole.

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TRI-EX W51, 51 foot tower.

Regular \$999.95 Special \$829.95

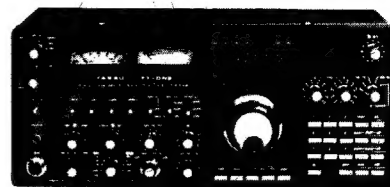
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